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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE**

**WRC-12 Agenda 1.2:** taking into account the ITU-R studies carried out in accordance with Resolution 951 (Rev.WRC-07), to take appropriate action with a view to enhancing the international regulatory framework;

**BACKGROUND:** WRC-07 considered the report of ITU studies in response to Resolution 951 (WRC-03) on methods to improve the international spectrum regulatory framework. This report identified a number of options for addressing the evolution of radio applications, systems and technologies.<sup>1</sup> Including (1) reviewing and possibly revising the current service definitions, or adding one or more new services to the list of service definitions, each one encompassing several of the existing ones; and (2) introducing composite services in the Table of Frequency Allocations.

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**DISCUSSION:** The United States recognizes the importance of a spectrum regulatory framework that allows flexible spectrum use to allow for the evolution of services and technologies, taking into account existing services and usage. Accordingly, the United States has, consistently adopted domestic service rules to accommodate emerging technologies, or, in various instances, sought changes in the ITU Radio Regulations in order to accommodate new or evolving systems and technology.

Although there has generally been success in using the ITU's current spectrum allocation regime to accommodate new services, that regime is not always responsive for accommodating rapidly evolving emerging technologies. While this mechanism is well known, established and has generally resulted in satisfying requirements of Administrations it does not provide a means to implement current, emerging and future radio applications between WRCs. In some cases this has

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<sup>1</sup> [cite: Res. 951, Annex]

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inhibited promising technology initiatives from innovators seeking global access. The ITU membership has recognized the need to accommodate in a timelier manner emerging technologies needing spectrum access for their introduction. In response to this realization, in 1993 the ITU-R went to a two-year WRC cycle. However, while in theory that approach might have been responsive to accommodating emerging technologies, in reality it has created a land rush mentality for placement on a WRC agenda, and essentially requires a four to eight year lead time for getting an item on a WRC agenda. This practice is detrimental to accommodating technologies and policies that emerge “out of cycle.”

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Under Agenda Item 1.2, revisions to the current Radio Regulation framework and to ITU-R spectrum management policy might be done in a number of ways, and could be implemented in a way that does not threaten existing services. With regard to the latter point, one key element – in effect it is already stated in Resolution 951 (WRC-07) – is that prior to the introduction of new services into a band with existing operating services, proper studies should be carried out and approved within the ITU-R.

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Regarding specific proposals responsive to concepts embodied in Agenda Item 1.2, the United States proposes to suppress Recommendation 34 (WRC-95)<sup>2</sup> and add a new Resolution [ALLOC.PRIN] (WRC-12) to more squarely address emerging technologies, increasingly blurred service definitions (i.e., this approach might include an examination of existing service definitions to determine whether they should be more broadly defined, new definitions developed, etc.), and the need to provide regular consideration of emerging technologies by WRCs.

In light of this discussion, the United States offers the attached proposal, suppressing existing Recommendation 34 (WRC-95) and replacing it with a new Resolution [ALLOC.PRIN] (WRC-12) to enhance the regulatory framework by promoting more flexible allocation principles and consideration by WRCs of emerging technologies on a regular basis. The proposal also recognizes that provisional and interim procedures have been adopted by previous WRCs in order to implement emerging technologies in a timely fashion.

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<sup>2</sup> See, Recommendation 34 (WRC-95), *Principles for allocation of frequency bands (Geneva 1995)*.

SUP

RECOMMENDATION 34 (WRC-95)

Principles for the allocation of frequency bands

ADD

DRAFT RESOLUTION [ALLOC.PRN] (WRC-12)<sup>3</sup>

Principles for the allocation of frequency bands

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2012),

*considering*

- a) that ITU should maintain an international Table of Frequency Allocations covering the usable radio-frequency spectrum;
- b) that it may be desirable, in certain cases, to allocate frequency bands to the most broadly defined services, including redefining existing radio services, in order to improve flexibility of use but without detriment to other services;
- c) that the development of common worldwide allocations is desirable in order to improve and harmonize utilization of the radio-frequency spectrum;
- d) that adherence to these principles for the allocation of spectrum will allow the Table of Frequency Allocations to focus on matters of regulatory significance while enabling greater flexibility in national spectrum use,
- e) that previous Conferences have adopted provisional and interim procedures to allow implementation of emerging technologies in an expeditious manner taking into account existing users;

*considering further*

- a) that ITU should promote the introduction of new uses for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in order to reduce gas emissions that impact climate change;
- b) that bridging the digital divide and bringing the benefits of ICTs to all citizens is fundamental for providing opportunities, for example for education, income and an active participation in information society;
- c) that ensuring connectivity to schools, rural communities and health facilities is vital to economic development and to making effective use of ICTs and that increased deployment of wireless broadband terrestrial and/or satellite applications will help achieve this objective;

<sup>3</sup> Revision marks are shown to highlight the differences compared to Recommendation 34 (WRC-95).

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d) that wireless applications often are the most cost-effective and practicable means of delivering advanced ICT in many countries;

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e) that the wide-area coverage characteristics of satellite-based wireless broadband applications are important to meeting the particular needs of developing countries;

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f) that satellite-based wireless broadband systems can provide service over a wide geographic area and are particularly suited for emergency and disaster recovery communications and rural communications;

g) that there is a need to continually take advantage of technological developments in order to increase the efficient use of spectrum and spectrum access;

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recognizing

a) that one of the primary objectives of the Radio Regulations is to provide for and, where necessary, regulate new applications of radiocommunication technology. (see No. 010).

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resolves

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1 that frequency bands shall, wherever possible, be allocated to the most broadly defined radio services (including through redefining existing radio services where appropriate) with a view to providing the maximum flexibility to administrations in spectrum use, taking into account safety, technical, operational, economic and other relevant factors;

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2 that frequency bands shall, wherever possible, be allocated on a worldwide basis (aligned radio services, categories of radio service and frequency band limits) taking into account safety, technical, operational, economic and other relevant factors and limit to the extent possible the use of footnotes to allocate radio services;

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3 that frequency bands and radio services, wherever possible, should accommodate appropriate interim procedures to facilitate implementation of current, emerging and future radio applications in a timely manner taking into account technological developments, digital convergence, safety, operational, economic and other relevant factors .

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3 to invite ITU-R to conduct technical, regulatory and operational studies on appropriate application of principles outlined in resolves 1 and 2 with a view towards facilitating introduction of terrestrial and satellite- based wireless broadband applications;

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4 to invite WRC-12 to consider a regular future agenda item aimed specifically at newly emerging technological developments;

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5 to invite WRC-15 to review the results of studies called for under resolves 3 and consider revision of the Radio Regulations as appropriate.

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invites administrations

to take account of resolves 1 to 5 and considering further a) to g, when making proposals to world radiocommunication conferences,

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requests the ITU-R study groups

1 when carrying out technical studies relating to a frequency band, to examine the compatibility of a broad definition of radio services (or a redefinition of existing radio services where appropriate), with the existing utilizations and the possibility of aligning allocations on a worldwide basis, having regard to considerations a), b), c) and d), ~~considering further a), b) c) and d)~~ and resolves 1, to 3 above;

3 to submit a report to future World Radiocommunication Conferences containing the results of these studies,

~~invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau to draw the attention of the Telecommunication Development Sector to this Resolution,~~

~~invites ITU-R to conduct studies in accordance with this Resolution in time for consideration by WRC-15,~~

REASON: To provide a means to facilitate implementation of current, emerging and future radio applications in a timely manner taking into account technological developments, digital convergence, safety, operational, economic and other relevant factors.

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**Deleted:** Recommendation

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*recommends*

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*that future world radiocommunication conferences*

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should

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allocate frequency bands

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